

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONARY BOARDS OF THE
EVANGELICAL CHURCHES,
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BELoved FELLOW WORKERS:

We, the undersigned, represent by membership or appointment, the following Evangelical bodies working in the Republic of Mexico, to wit; The Baptist of the Northern Board and Southern Convention; The Congregational; (A. B. C. F. M.) The Cumberland Presbyterian; The American Bible Society; The Associate Reformed; The Friends, of two annual meetings; The Presbyterian; The Methodist Episcopal; The Southern Presbyterian; The Methodist Episcopal Church South; The S. D. A. Medical Mission of Guadalajara and others.

In the month of February 1888 we held, in this City, an Evangelical Assembly which lasted three days and was productive of much good. From our experience then, and since, and after due consultation with nearly all the workers throughout the entire field, we are fully persuaded that the time is ripe for a second General Assembly of the protestant workers of Mexico. Evangelical Missions now have a record of over twenty years in this country, and most satisfying results prove that the hand of God is in our work. Notwithstanding the many difficulties of language, climate and cruel persecutions, we find that we already have over 600 congregations; 192 foreign and 585 native workers; over 7, 000 in our day schools, and about 10, 000 in our Sunday Schools; 18, 000 communicants, and a protestant community of over 60, 000 souls. Ten small publishing houses are turning out millions of pages each year, and our church property is valued at nearly a million and a quarter of dollars, (silver.)

This encouraging outcome, coupled with the fact that the entire country is open to our workers and christian congregations are springing up on every hand, due largely to the operations of our Presses and the co-operation of the American Bible and the American Tract Societies; make it our solemn duty to study carefully the many problems which confront us, that Christ's kingdom may be established among the millions of Mexico, at the earliest possible moment, and in the wisest possible way. Certain phases of many questions, such as, Missionary comity, Self support, Educational interests, Young People's Societies, Bible, Tract, Sunday School, Medical and Woman's work, can better be treated in such an assembly, than by our individual missions. But it is our firm conviction that our nascent congregations will be multiplied and strengthened, greatly, by a candid and full consideration of these and other questions. And this much desired result will bring greater honor to our common Lord.

For this end we plead for the co-operation of our home Boards, by the appointment of one or more representatives who will be heartily welcomed and gladly heard in our proposed assembly, to be held in this City, Jan'y 27--31 inclusive, 1897. The rapid and cheap means of communication, [with New York less than five days by rail from Mexico City] your generous provision these many years for the support of our work, and your well known interest in the cause of Christ in this country, your next door neighbor, leads us confidently to expect a favorable reply, at your earliest convenience, which may be addressed to any of the undersigned.

Kindly give name and address of representative or representatives and believe us, with fraternal affection,
Your Respectful and Obedient fellow laborers in the Master's Vineyard,

John W. Butler, President.

P. O. Box 261.

W. H. Sloan, Secretary.

Tercera Calle Humboldt 515.

H. W. Brown.

P. O. Box 805.

W. D. King.

Calle Balderas 8.

H. P. Hamilton.

P. O. Box 99.

REC. COMMITTEE.

MEXICO CITY, OCTOBER 15, 1896.

TRANSLATION.

(Project) Plan of Union between the Four Presbyteries known as "City of Mexico", "Zacatecas", "Tamanlipas" and "Gulf" (of Mexico).

1. The presbyteries of the City of Mexico, Zacatecas, Tamanlipas, and the Gulf, shall form a Synod, which shall be known as "Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Mexico."

2. The Synod shall adopt as its own the "Constitution of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (North), as published by the Presbyterian Mission in the City of Mexico in 1896, including the "Form of Government.

3. By the formation of the new Synod the Presbyterian Church in Mexico will be established in an independent form. (as an independent church.)

4. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Mexico shall be the supreme authority in Government and Discipline, and shall be invested with all the powers(faculties) granted by our Constitution to the General Assembly, until this latter be organized.

5. The Synod thus constituted shall have its first meeting in the City of Mexico in the Church of the Divine Saviour (Divine Salvador) the- of July 1901.

6. The individual relatives between the missionaries and the Synod, and between the Synod and the Missions which co-operate with it, shall be determined in the first meeting of the Synod.

7. The Synod shall be constituted in the first Meeting of all the bishops, and one elder from each congregation of the district, on the same basis (with the same modifications) as the Presbytery, according to Chapter 11, paragraph 1. of the Government of the Church, proposed

in Article 2. of this Plan.

8. The Evangelical Churches of Mexico are invited to name delegates to attend the solemn inauguration of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Mexico.

Preliminary Steps.

A. The Presbytery of Tamanlipas will communicate to the General Assembly of the United States (South) its desire to form with the other presbyteries, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Mexico.

B. The remaining presbyteries will ask the consent of the Gneral Assembly of the United States of America (North) for the formation of the new Synod, asking the said Assembly to authorize the plan of these presbyteries.

C. The presbyteries will petition the General Assemblies already mentioned, the appointment of representatives (to attend) the solemn inauguration of, this Body.

D. Each presbytery, after a discussion of this Plan, will take the necessary steps for its realization.

The Committee. (L. Garza Mora, Pres.
)Arcadio Morales
 (William Wallace, Sec'y.

10: December: 1900.

Copy.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION.
Hubert W. Brown, Editor and Treasurer.
Address. APANILABO POSTAL 305.
Office San Juan de Petran St. No. 4.

Mexico City, Mexico, Dec. 16, 1922.

Rev. Henry M. Forrester,
Vicar of the Church of Jesus in Mexico, and Counsellor.

Dear Sir:

I beg leave to call your attention to the following matter, which I hope you will feel that you can use your authority or counsel to have changed.

For many years the Presbyterian Church has had work in Toluca, Amoloya del Rio, Capulhuac and Alacotepec, in the Valley of Toluca. The towns are small, and whatever our differences in government and doctrine, as we teach the essentials necessary to salvation, we feel that it is not necessary to have two sets of Christian workers in places of this size. As ministers or lay-workers of the Episcopal Church (the Church of Jesus) in Mexico have recently begun work in the above-named towns, I have been requested by our worker, Dr. Jose Falcon, to lay the matter before you, and ask that you use your influence or authority to have this part of the field left to our workers. I do this in the name of the General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Mexico and of the Presbyterian Mission, both of which have named me their commissioner on Comity. I am,

Yours respectfully,

Hubert W. Brown.

*adjusted by
reference to Episcopal
Bo. A. Board*

Copy.

F A L C O N

Mexico, 19 Dec. 1902.

Presbyter H. Forrester

Dear Sir:

I have just read carefully Mr. Brown's letter which he wrote you on Mr. Falcon's request, and as directed by the bodies of the "protestant" Presbyterian sect and in representation of them.

Certainly we, that is to say, the ministers of the Mexican Church, resident in Toluca, have visited Almoloya del Rio, Capulhuac and Ilacatepec, as we have visited and shall continue to visit many other points, distributing the literature of our Church, without paying any attention to the fact that said places are occupied by sectarianism or Romanism, since it is well known that we have no league or alliance with any of them.

By so doing, we are simply acting in accord with the principles which we profess, which are equally opposed to both religious systems.

The suggestion of Mr. Brown that we abandon such and such a place solely because his mission has labored there for many years, might also be made by the Romanist priest, who has been there for a still longer time, and also pretends to teach the things 'essential, necessary' for salvation.

In closing, I will say to you that these gentlemen forget the independent national character of our Church and that as such it recognizes no limits other than those of the frontiers of the Republic. It is my duty to extend the principles which are truly catholic in the zone which the Synod of the Church has assigned me as my field of labor.

I am, your most affectionate, attentive and
obedient servant,

J. A. Carrion,

Presbyter in Charge.

(Note. The other reason alleged by Mr. Brown was the smallness of
the towns, two of which Almoloya and Tlacotepec are Indian villages.
The quotation marks and line for emphasis in the letter are Mr. Car-
rion's,
H.W.B.

Copy.

Mexico, Dec. 19th, 1902.

Rev. Huber A. Brown,
Commissioner in Comity, etc.

Dear Sir,

Returning last night from a visit to Guerrero, I found yours of 16th inst. As Mr. Carrion was here, I referred it to him for his consideration and I enclose herewith his answer.

So what he says, it may be proper for me to add some observations of my own.

1. I am credibly informed that the work of the Church of Jesus antedates that of the Presbyterian Mission in Almoloya del Rio and Capulhuac.

2. When, from reading our literature or from any other cause, people seek admission to the Church, we cannot reject them, if they give evidence that they are acting intelligently and in good faith.

3. We do not recognize the validity of any claim of pre-emption of territory, as against that of the National Catholic Church.

4. We believe that this church has that to bestow which cannot elsewhere be obtained.

5. We believe that even though "the essentials necessary to salvation" be taught by others, the Church is not thereby relieved of the duty to bear witness to other truths which, while not necessary to the salvation of the individual are necessary to the conversation of these essentials themselves, and so to the salvation of future generations.

Finally, while we rejoice in any good that may be done by anybody, and respect and honour all to the extent that their character

justifies us in so doing, yet we cannot but, in true Christian charity, oppose systems which we deem evil or radically wrong and therefore prejudicial to the best interests of men .

Trusting that this may make our position clear to you, I beg to assure you of my respect and regard,

Your servant in all good

(signed) J. Forrester.

COPY

Mexico, D. F., Dec. 20th, 1902.

Mr. Robert W. Speer, Secretary,
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,
New York.

Dear Mr. Speer:

I enclose copies of my letter to Mr. Forrester, and his reply, which enclosed Mr. Carrion's letter. The work in Almoloya and Tlacotepec has been exclusively in our hands for years. In Capulhuac the entrance some years ago of the Southern Methodist divided the work and they have as yet also been unwilling to withdraw, tho. Mr. Joyner, presiding elder has shown a friendly attitude when spoken to on the matter.

When I was in the States many Episcopalian friends heard with surprise and doubt as to its accuracy when I reported this attitude on the part of Episcopalian workers in Mexico.

I leave it to your judgment to decide what it is best to do in the matter. I wish personally the proper authorities in the U. S. might have their attention called to the matter.

I gave Mr. Forrester the title Counsellor, as I understood that he had stated that such was his relation on the part of the Church in U. S. to that in Mexico.

I am, Yours sincerely,

Hubert W. Brown.

Commissioner on Comity of the General Synod and Mission of the Presbyterian Church in Mexico.

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Address, APARTADO POSTAL 305.
Office San Juan de Letran St. No. 4.

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